

## Diagnosis and Therapy of Tattoo Complications

# Current Problems in Dermatology

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# Diagnosis and Therapy of Tattoo Complications

With Atlas of Illustrative Cases

Volume Editors

**Jørgen Serup** Copenhagen

**Wolfgang Bäuml** Regensburg

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## Current Problems in Dermatology

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## Preface

This book is prepared as a small textbook for fellow clinicians, who in the future will face patients suffering from tattoo complications. Tattoo complications is a new subspecialty in medicine; however, this new field has not yet been integrated in medical education. In view of the high number of tattooed individuals, clinicians will consistently see patients with health problems in tattooed skin. However, clinicians often have doubts about how to diagnose and treat these complications.

It is important to recognize that patients with tattoo complications truly are patients since their disease burden is comparable to other cumbersome skin diseases. Patients with tattoos have to some degree been neglected in the past. There are many patients with tattoo complications but they are scattered over many specialties.

The topic of this book deserves special attention because tattooing, which is minor surgery, is an unauthorized injection of significant amounts of pigment particles and myriads of chemicals of tattoo inks into the human body with a broad spectrum of possible risks. These are displayed in the clinical setting where the treating doctor encounters the clinical manifestations on a face-to-face basis so to speak. The field of tattoo complications is refined and not easy. Fortunately, many tattooed individuals do not suffer complications and just enjoy having their tattoo.

Refined diagnosis and disease classification are the requisites to rational therapy. Laser removal of tattoos is covered in four chapters including novel treatment. Surgical treatment of complications is covered in a separate chapter with dermatome shaving as a prioritized method along with a review of medical treatment options. A summary chapter presents a guide to treatment of tattoo complications and tattoo removal.

Last but not least, an extensive material of cases illustrating the different types and classes of tattoo complications is displayed in the format of an atlas including selected clinical photos and brief case summaries with comments and educational notes. The clinician can use this atlas for pattern recognition and as a visual guide to diagnosis of new cases. The atlas follows the new diagnosis classification system described in the book and submitted to the WHO International Classification of Diseases 11th revision (ICD-11).

This book on the diagnosis and therapy of tattoo complications is printed in the series *Current Problems in Dermatology* by Karger Publishers, Switzerland, as volume 52 – a follow-up of the recently published book *Tattooed Skin and Health*, volume 48, 2015, of the same series. Volume 48 describes basics, cultures, practices, as well as general health aspects and regulations of tattooing including the many safety issues related to tat-

too inks. The two books are complementary, and one book is indispensable relative to the other if deep insight in all aspects of the topic is sought. Karger Publishers has taken a further initiative to support research and education in the field of tattoo complications by including the new section Tattoo and Body Art in their classical and fully indexed journal *Dermatology*, originally started in 1893. With this triplet, Karger Publishers has been established as the world leader in scientific publication in the field of tattooing.

The European Society of Tattoo and Pigment Research (ESTP) inaugurated in 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark, stands behind the mentioned publications. The ESTP organizes biannual international congresses: Copenhagen 2013, Bruges 2015, and Regensburg 2017.

This book was only possible thanks to generous contributions of the esteemed faculties of the chapter authors. Karger Publishers also did a marvelous job with this book, and it was a privilege to work with the Karger team.

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